

# We want our children to get into school and be able to go to the doctor



Flytip: A Gypsy girl with some of the rubbish that had been dumped at the site, left; the families' caravans on the new hardstanding, below left

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Council planning enforcers yesterday slapped a stop notice on the group.

Yesterday local MP James Gray - who has become well-constituted after the long-running saga 10 miles away in Minety - will raise the subject of the latest site in Parliament.

He said there was "one rule for the travelling community and another for the settled community".

The Irish gypsies said they were abiding by the law and Government planning guidance, and they just wanted to live somewhere safe and secure to allow them to access doctors and health care, and schools for their children.

One parent on the site, who declined to be named, said: "We're out of the way and doing no harm to anyone here, so I hope they let us stay."

"This place was a bit of a dump before. We took pictures of all the stuff dumped here and we've all tidied it up, as you can see. We've searched for a site



like this for a long time. There's nowhere else for us to go - there aren't enough council sites and what there are needs upgrading. People would say we're Irish gypsies, but I was born and lived all my life in England, even though I've got an Irish accent. The English gypsies in the council sites don't want us there and we've got to live somewhere. We just want our children to get into schools and be able to go to the doctors."

The families yesterday inquired about securing places at the nearest primary school -

half a mile away in Hullavington.

The Hullavington site is the latest in a long line of cases in Wiltshire where families buy their own land and create sites before being given planning permission.

Local MP James Gray said he was "very concerned" at the news.

He said: "This follows a well-established pattern, started by the illegal site at Minety, and is another worrying example of the way in which planning law apparently benefits one

group in society over another. I currently know of three or four people who are being forced to remove their caravans for breach of planning regulations elsewhere in my constituency."

"Presumably, if those people declared themselves to be Romany Gypsies, they would be permitted to remain there, which seems to me to show that there is one rule for the travelling community and another for the settled community."

The families' agent, Bill, added: "There is a shortfall of 120 pitches in Wiltshire alone and the council sites that do exist

need serious work. If James Gray wants to sort this out, he should start by addressing that."

"These families are abiding by the law and by the latest Government guidelines. The council sites are not up-to-date and there aren't enough pitches. Hopefully there won't be a problem, I'm waiting to meet with the planners. They are Irish gypsies and their culture is different from the English gypsies, but they are law-abiding people who have done everything correctly."

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Missing: Claudia Lawrence

## 'The wait was almost unbearable'

The father of Claudia Lawrence has spoken of his family's anguish as he recalled how they anxiously waited to hear confirmation from the police that a body found in a river was not the missing university chef.

Peter Lawrence said the three or four hours the family had to wait on Friday afternoon before an officer told them the body found in the River Ouse at York was a 68-year-old woman "was almost unbearable".

Speaking at a weekly news conference in Slingsby, North Yorkshire, Mr Lawrence said: "Friday was a very deep shock to me and all the family."

"And from the initial call, there was a period of three or four hours of time which was almost unbearable until we were told that the body found in the river was not Claudia."

Mr Lawrence said the hunt for his daughter still goes on. He said: "She's out there somewhere and the message still goes out, somebody must know something and we would like them to say so."

## Safety summit

A pilots' organisation has called on trade unions to back a wide-ranging safety summit in the wake of the recent North Sea helicopter tragedy.

The British Airline Pilots' Association said the summit should involve independent safety experts and helicopter pilots. All 16 men on board a Super Puma helicopter died after it crashed north east of Peterhead in Aberdeenshire.

## Parents fear their child was victim

Police who caught a paedophile have since received calls from parents across the UK concerned their children could be among his victims.

David Bye, 43, was jailed indefinitely on Friday after pleading guilty to the rape and sexual assault of a girl under 13, and possessing more than 17,000 indecent images of children - some of which he had taken himself. Merthyr Crown Court

heard he groomed multiple victims and photographed himself raping one of them who has never been identified. It is believed Bye is the first person ever convicted of the rape of a child whose identity remains unknown.

Detective Inspector Diane Davies said she had received calls from parents across the UK since Bye was sentenced.

"We've had about 10 calls from concerned parents in vari-

ous locations in the UK," she said. "These will be followed up and any other parents with concerns are welcome to call Dyfed-Powys Police."

She described Bye, who is originally from west London, but lived in Scotland, Basingstoke and Canterbury before settling in mid-Wales, as a "chameleon".

Bye must serve a minimum of five years before he is considered for release.



# GIPSIES SET UP A NEW ILLEGAL SITE

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Six families clean up rubbish dump and ask to be allowed to stay



Clean-up: One of the kids lends a hand

By Tristan Cork

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A group of self-styled gipsies has sparked a new planning row just a few miles away from the scene of the West's most infamous case.

Half a dozen Irish gipsy families have moved on to an acre of land between Corston and Hullavington in north Wiltshire and submitted a retrospective planning application to be allowed to live there.

Over the weekend, the group cleared the site - which had been a notorious fly-tipping area - and laid hard standing down for six caravans.

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